

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A suspension comprising:
a metal material defining at least a portion of the suspension;
an adhesive bonded to a portion of the metal material; and
a composite material having a higher stiffness to weight ratio than the metal material and being bonded to the same adhesive layer that is bonded to the metal material, the adhesive layer being thinner than .00025 cm ~~the composite material~~.
2. (Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the metal material defines a load beam of the suspension and the adhesive and the composite material are positioned on the load beam.
3. (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the metal material defines a base area of the suspension and the adhesive and the composite material are positioned on the base area.
4. (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the metal material defines a spring area having a first bonding area, the composite material defines a load beam having a second bonding area and the adhesive is bonded between the first bonding area and the second bonding area.
5. (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the metal material defines a spring area having a first bonding area, the composite material defines a base area having a second bonding area and the adhesive is bonded between the first bonding area and the second bonding area.

6. (Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the composite material comprises a high performance plastic.

7. (Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 6 wherein the composite material comprises a liquid crystal polymer.

8. (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the composite material comprises a reinforced plastic.

9. (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the composite material comprises a metal matrix composite.

10. (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 9 wherein the metal matrix composite comprises aluminum with alumina fibers.

11. (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the composite material comprises a ceramic material.

12. (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the composite material comprises a glass material.

13. (Currently Amended) A suspension comprising:
a suspension body formed from a layer of metal; and
a composite stiffener formed from a composite material and bonded directly to a portion of the suspension body by a single adhesive layer that is thinner than .00025 cm~~the layer of metal~~.

14. (Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite stiffener is bonded to a base area of the suspension body.

15.(Original) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite stiffener is bonded to a load beam of the suspension body.

16.(Original) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite material comprises a high performance plastic.

17.(Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite material comprises a reinforced plastic.

18.(Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite material comprises a metal matrix composite.

19.(Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite material comprises a ceramic material.

20.(Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite material comprises a glass material.

21.(Currently Amended) A suspension comprising:
a suspension body formed from a layer of metal; and
stiffener means formed of a composite material for
increasing the stiffness of selected areas of the
suspension and bonded directly to the suspension body
by a single adhesive layer that is thinner than .00025
cm~~the layer of metal~~.

22.(Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 21 wherein the stiffener means comprises a composite material bonded to a base area of the suspension body.

23.(Original) The suspension of claim 21 wherein the stiffener means comprises a composite material bonded to a load beam of the suspension body.

24.(Original) The suspension of claim 21 wherein the stiffener means comprises a composite material having a higher stiffness to mass ratio than the layer of metal.

25.(Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 21 wherein the stiffener means comprises a metal matrix.